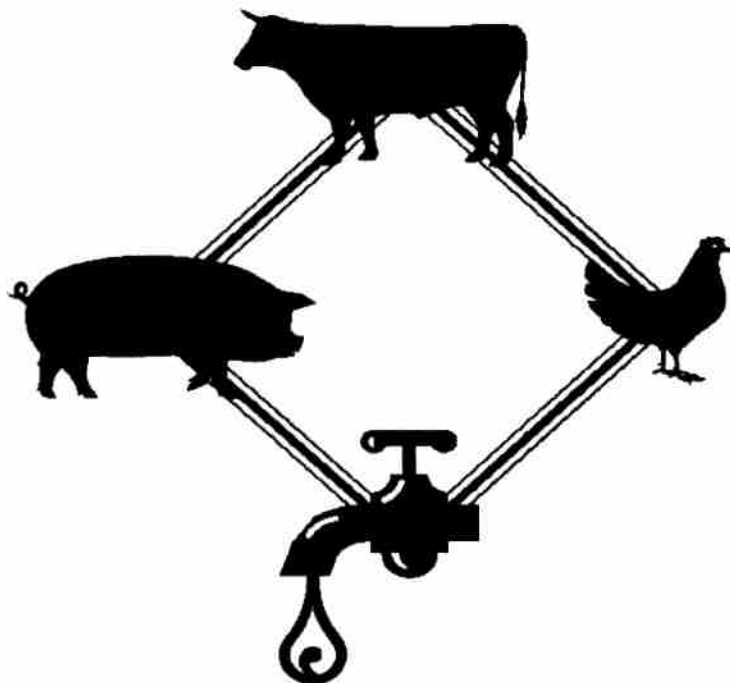




STATE OF OKLAHOMA

**GOVERNOR FRANK KEATING'S
ANIMAL WASTE & WATER QUALITY PROTECTION TASK FORCE**

Final Report



Prepared By:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Seven state environmental agency representatives and eight governor-appointed private citizens met bi-weekly from June to December 1997 to develop recommendations for Governor Keating to ensure the protection of Oklahoma's water supply from the state's burgeoning confined animal production industry.

In its six months of deliberations, the Animal Waste and Water Quality Protection Task Force ("Task Force"), created by Executive Order 97-07, identified a substantial list of concerns and issues surrounding Oklahoma's confined animal production industry.

By concentrating on its directive under Executive Order 97-07, the Task Force was able to narrow its focus to **water quality** concerns stemming from confined animal production. This would allow the Task Force members not only to meet their December 1, 1997 deadline, but also, to deliberate issues related to their experience and expertise. Thus, the majority of this final report to Governor Keating deals with issues and recommendations for **water quality** protection.

Generally, the Task Force agreed that *Oklahoma's Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations Act* (the "CAFO Act"), created by H.B. 1522, was an excellent "first step" in bringing needed regulation to Oklahoma's expanding swine industry. As with any new piece of legislation, however, some amendments to this law were deemed appropriate by the Task Force and are included within the text of this report.

These recommendations are offered in an attempt to strengthen some of the requirements placed on swine and other CAFO industries by the CAFO Act.

In addition to the recommended amendments to the CAFO Act, the Task Force realized that one large sector of confined animal production, *viz.*, the poultry industry, was essentially exempted from regulation.

Only those poultry operations that utilize a liquid animal waste system were captured by the CAFO Act. However, the majority of Oklahoma's poultry operations are considered "dry litter" operations. Because these dry litter operations have been cited by both state and national research as sources of nutrient runoff into streams and lakes, the Task Force believed that new legislation should be drafted to ensure that dry litter poultry operations take extra precautions to control nutrient runoff from the land application of dry litter. Essentially, the Task Force calls upon the legislature to statutorily require dry litter poultry operations to do what many operations already are doing voluntarily -- to follow the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service ("NRCS") guidelines for the proper collection, storage, and disposal of animal waste.

This final report is a compilation of the more than seventy-five recommendations passed during the Task Force's six months of deliberations. The recommendations are organized into sections based on the method needed to implement those recommendations. Recommendations that are not "industry-specific" are included in the first section of the report; the industry-specific recommendations follow.